

Southern Flyer

908th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., Vol. 43, Issue 3, March 2006



Sustained superior performance earns wing AF-level award War service, other accomplishments net 908th AW outstanding unit award

The 908th Airlift Wing is among the 23 Air Force Reserve units set to receive Air Force-level awards for their service in 2005.

The 908th is set to receive the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The AFOUA is presented to numbered units for exceptionally outstanding achievement that clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units. The service or achievement may be in any of the following areas:

- Performing exceptionally meritorious service of national or international significance.
- Accomplishing specific acts of outstanding achievement of national or international significance.
- Combat operations against an armed enemy of the United States.
- Military operations involving conflict with or expo-

sure to hostile actions by an opposing foreign force.

"This AFOUA is a direct reflection on the hard work and dedication of the men and women of the 908th. We have great people, and this award is testimony to the important role we play in support of our nation's Global War on Terrorism. It's their award and I am extremely proud of them," said 908th AW Commander Col. Michael J. Underkofler.

"The past two years brought historic achievements for the wing as over 300 aircrew and maintenance personnel were activated and deployed for the war on terrorism, supported phenomenally by all administrative and logistical offices of the wing. In addition to the activation, the wing fulfilled all Air Force Air Expeditionary Force requirements, received its best report



to date for a Unit Compliance Inspection from the Air Force Reserve Command Inspector General, demonstrated flawless combat readiness to the Air Mobility Command Inspector General in its first Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection and reached unparalleled heights in hurricane disaster relief, new facility construction, manning and mentoring, and community involvement," read an excerpt from the package wing officials prepared requesting consideration for the Outstanding Unit Award

Also receiving the AFOUA are: 4th Air Force, March Air Reserve Base, Calif.; 624th Regional Support Group, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; 513th Air Control Group, Tinker AFB, Okla.;

349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, Calif.; 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo.; 340th Flying Training Group, Randolph AFB, Texas; 927th Air Refueling Wing, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.; 940th ARW, Beale AFB, Calif.; 440th AW, Gen. Mitchell International Airport Air Reserve Station, Wis.; 446th AW, McChord AFB, Wash.; 758th Airlift Squadron, Pittsburgh IAP ARS, Pa.; 910th Operations Group, Youngstown ARS, Ohio; 911th Operations Support Flight, Pittsburgh IAP ARS; 94th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Dobbins ARB, Ga.; 67th Aerial Port Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah; 514th Flight Test Squadron, Hill AFB; 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick AFB, Fla.; 810th Civil Engineer Flight, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth (Carswell Field), Texas; 419th Combat Logistics Support Squadron, Hill AFB; 919th Special Operations Wing, Eglin AFB Field 3, Fla.

The Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver and the Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service at Robins AFB are receiving the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award. The Organizational Excellence Award is awarded to units of the Air Force for achievements and accomplishments that do not meet the eligibility requirements of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The distinction between units that qualify for the Outstanding Unit Award and the Organizational Excellence Award is based on level of organization.

Military personnel flights will have information about eligibility for these awards after Headquarters AFRC finalizes the award elements. (Based on an AFRC News Service release)

New web site puts info about wing, base just a click away

Want to read the latest headlines from the 908th and the Air Force Reserve Command? Would you like to see photos of the aircraft assigned to the base. How about browsing through an on-line library.

These and many other items are now available with just a click of a mouse as the new 908th AW internet web site is available at <http://www.908aw.afrc.af.mil/>.

"The new web site has a wealth of material that will be of interest to a wide ranging audience including base personnel, the general public, new media and military retirees," said Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb, chief of public affairs. "The web site will be updated regularly and it is our hope that people will visit it frequently.

The 908th has had a presence on the internet for years but the new web site is unlike anything that previously existed. "Visitors to the site will notice a number of changes,"

Colonel Lobb said. "For example, the layout and design mirrors that of Air Force Link to ensure continuity and a professional image."

Because the site is designed for public viewing, some items have been deleted from the new page, the colonel added. For example, viewers will note that the on-line version of the "Southern Flyer" masks or conceals the unit training assembly schedule. That information will soon be available on the limited access web page. As soon as the content for the page is revised it's address will be sent out via a 908th All Broadcast e-mail.

Additional highlights include a photo and art gallery, news and feature section, on-line library, fact sheets, biographies of key unit personnel, links to the other Air Force and government sites, information on Air Force Recruiting, and a frequently asked question and answer section.



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Let's get physical

From left, 908th Mission Support Squadron's Capt. Sarah Butler, Tech. Sgt. Dimitri Jefferies, Master Sgt. Mark Naglic and Tech. Sgt. Joshua Morasco take part in a unit physical training session Feb. 4 at the Officers' Training School track. A newly instituted wing policy now requires squadron commanders to incorporate unit PT into the monthly UTA as well as any required fitness testing.

Show SAV inspectors how, why you, your unit stand out

By Col. William J. Forshey Jr.
908th Mission Support Group
Commander

The 22nd Air Force Staff Assistance Visit team will be here soon after this article is printed or they may already be here when you are reading it for the first time. Either way, read it and take the information included to heart for this next UTA. This is our final dress rehearsal before "opening night" of the AFRC Unit Compliance Inspection in October 2007.

Staff assistance visits help to prepare us for UCIs. SAV results will give us our game plan for the next 18 months to ensure we are inspection ready. We need to make sure we open up our units and our programs for the SAV team so they can take a good look for us. This will ensure we have all the areas in compliance when the AFRC IG team arrives next year.

To make sure we reap the benefit from the SAV team's expertise, we need to pay particular attention to many areas. Let's talk about the Top 10.

1. Competence - Know your job inside and out, and be confident with your inspectors but never argue a

point. Make sure you can put your finger on every reference in an AFI or in a command policy message on that issue. Never try to support your point with something that is not substantiated in a reference document. Sometimes that documentation may be as simple as an e-mail from higher headquarters that clarifies a skimpy AFI reference.

2. Respect - If you disagree with the SAV team on a particular point, identify your concerns. Show the team member your references and state your case in a respectful manner. Never argue and don't belabor the point. Remember they're here to help.

3. Communication - If you cannot persuade the SAV team to accept your argument and you think your position is well supported, let your commander know about the issue. He or she can bring it to the attention of the group commander, who, if warranted, can elevate the issue to the wing commander. If the wing commander feels the issue is of serious consequence, then he will bring it to the attention of the SAV team

chief during daily "how goes it briefings."

4. Responsiveness - When a team member requests information, respond in a timely manner; don't make them wait for the information. It is better to have all the program information already laid out or at least readily accessible so SAV team members have what they need to perform their duties available promptly.

5. Attitude - No matter how you think your visit is going, always display a positive attitude. A positive attitude can be contagious. Unfortunately, so can a bad one. Let's make sure all the SAV team sees is positive attitudes.

6. Appearance - The first impression the SAV team gets of the unit usually sets the tone for the visit. Make sure your people and your facilities look sharp. You want the team's first impression to be a favorable one. Make sure your office areas are clean and they present a professional and safe work environment. Remember your customs and courtesies and make sure you take the time to respectfully correct any deficiencies you see before

the SAV team identifies them and corrects them.

7. Safety - Always approach your duties with a safety-oriented mindset; apply Operational Risk Management techniques to accomplish the mission.

8. Leadership - Lead by words and actions, formally and informally. Motivate, communicate and set a positive example.

9. Followership - Follow taskings and orders quickly and effectively. Apply teambuilding skills and always keep the objective in sight. Remember a good leader must also be able to follow.

10. Pride - Visibly display your pride in your unit and your area. Do not be afraid to show off your great programs but don't be afraid to show what you have in those programs that need a little work. That is what the SAV team is here to do; to help us improve those areas we need help in before the inspection in 2007.

When the SAV starts, grab the SAV team member by the sleeve and say, "Follow me - I want to show you why my unit and our people are outstanding!"

Rest, gather your strength, enjoy hard earned respite

There once was a prophet named Elijah. He had a very memorable and rewarding career. Some of you may have read or heard about an encounter he had with some alien prophets. It basically came down to a contest between Elijah and 450 alien prophets. The situation was very dramatic, very intense.



By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bob Anders
908th AW Chaplain's Office

In the end Elijah won. Undoubtedly adrenaline rushed through his veins. For a short while the victory seemed very sweet. He was everyone's hero. For that season it seemed as though life could not possibly be any better for Elijah.

Then it happened. Memories of the great victory faded. The world's attention was not focused on Elijah. He was no longer the solitary man of the hour. He took this disinterest pretty hard. He ran off to a cave to hide. His countenance was downcast. His heart was heavy. He had once been extraordinary, and now seemed almost insignificant.

As he crouched in the back of the cave, he heard the voice of the Lord, and went to stand in the mouth of the cave to see if there was a message for him. He longed for another battle.

He yearned for another struggle. He hoped for another victory. As he stood there, a mighty fire came by, but there was no message. A mighty earthquake came by, but there was no message. A mighty wind came by, but there was no message. Just as he was about to ask, "What am I doing here?" He heard the voice of the Lord ask him., "What are you doing here?" The Lord spoke in a very soft voice, hardly above a whisper. Had he not been listening closely Elijah would have missed it. While it was soft ... it was none the less a message from the Lord.

"Elijah, you are my servant. I am pleased with how you have fought. I am pleased in your victory. I have other things for you to do, and in time, I will make them plain to you. But for

now, sit down, be quiet and listen for me."

My friends, we have fought long and hard. We have had those kinds of experiences that can only be forged in battle. We have served both God and country well. As we stand at the mouth of our own cave ... let us hear the Lord's message: I am pleased with how you have served. You have been brave and strong and true. For the moment the battle is over for you. Take it easy. Rest and gather your strength. I have other things that I need you to do, and in time I will make them plain to you. For now, sit quietly and listen for my still small voice.

May I sit with you and listen.



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Editorial policy

Editorial content of the "Southern Flyer" is edited, prepared and provided by the 908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office.

All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

We solicit articles, drawings and photographs and reserve the right to edit materials to conform to "Southern Flyer" editorial policies.

Because of the printing and mail-out schedule the newspaper goes to press on Friday, two weeks prior to the UTA. The submission deadline for articles or information is the Wednesday two weeks prior to the UTA.

For information about this schedule, call Jeff Melvin at (334) 953-7874.

Public affairs asks readers, Unit PA reps for story ideas, photos, tips

The public affairs office needs your help. Each month we work hard to bring you an attractive, informative, well-planned copy of the "Southern Flyer" news magazine. As hard as we work, we know that we can't get the job done alone. We need tips, story ideas, photos and items of interest from you, our readers.

We're a very small staff; only three people. That's not three people to work only on the "Southern Flyer," but three people to accomplish all our requirements, plus unit and individual responsibilities. So like many of you, we're

struggling to stay afloat.

We're working to ensure the paper that appears in your mailboxes provides balanced coverage of all the units and people of the 908th Airlift Wing. We need a little help from you to reach our goals.

We want to have fair coverage across the board. This includes local news and feature stories while blending in the proper mix of command information.

We're a military unit, so it's important for everyone to receive news from AFRC, the Air Force and DOD.

We strive to print a paper that tells the stories of all the Citizen Airmen assigned to

the 908th as well as our civilian employees.

There are several ways to get your story ideas into print. Send us an e-mail to: southern.flyer@maxwell.af.mil or call us at (334) 953-6804 or 7874.

You may also relay your story ideas to us through your unit public affairs representative. Discuss it with him or her and ask them to pass the information on to us.

Your unit public affairs representative or UPAR is your unit link to the PA staff. UPARs can be the eyes and ears for their unit. They keep the public affairs office informed about newsworthy

events happening in their squadrons.

We haven't asked much of our UPARs in the past. In fact, many units currently do not have formally appointed UPARs. Current UPARs haven't had any formal training in some time. We're working to correct that. We're asking unit commanders to forward us letters of appointments for their UPARs --current or newly designated-- and have their UPARs attend the first of what we plan to be regular training sessions, starting with the April UTA. We'll teach them all they need to know to help us create a paper people look

forward to reading.

The bottom line is we want you to know that we're working hard to provide the 908th the best news magazine we possibly can. Your help to keep us informed will be greatly appreciated.

So what's your story? We're eager to hear it from you or your UPAR.

Continue to read the "Southern Flyer" and share it with you family and friends.

Determination, commitment yield better health, small profit

Longtime smoker uses added incentive from support group commander to kick habit

By Senior Master Sgt. David Fanning
908th Mission Support Flight
and Jeff Melvin
908th AW Public Affairs

A year ago Col. Bill Forshey approached Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder of the 908th AW Public Affairs Office and offered him a bet the sergeant couldn't refuse.

The Mission Support Group commander made an agreement with Sergeant Ponder that if he would quit smoking for two years, the colonel would pay him \$100 after the first year.

Sergeant Ponder accepted the challenge and was presented with a \$100 check by Colonel Forshey during the February UTA.

Having been a smoker himself for 15 years and now a non-smoker for the last 20 years, Colonel Forshey knows how difficult quitting can be.

When asked if he could feel for smokers who are trying to quit he quickly replied, "Darn right!"

"I think everyone who has quit smoking owes it to someone else to help them quit. It takes support from all of us, especially those of us that have quit," the colonel continued.

Sergeant Ponder is very thankful for Colonel Forshey's confidence and encouragement in his ability to successfully kick the habit and become a non-smoker.

The prospect of getting the colonel's money was a



Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder successfully extinguishes a 30-year smoking habit.

motivator, (anyone who knows Sergeant Ponder can't help but notice his frugal ways), but it only played a small part in getting the sergeant to quit. Colonel Forshey's offer simply sweetened the deal for a man who desperately wanted to quit smoking.

Here's his take on the events that transpired, "I have smoked for over 30 years and yes, I knew it was unhealthy. I began smoking as a young teenager when smoking was still cool at least to me and my peers. I've tried to quit many times, but never seemed to shake off, 'Wanting to light up just once more, and taking another drag.' I told myself I enjoyed it and that was why I continued to smoke.

"After a class on the effects of smoking when he was in the first grade my eldest son asked me when I was going to stop smoking. He asked

many times over the years and I would always answer him, 'soon son, soon.' Well, he's completed his second year of college and now my younger son was asking the same question," said Sergeant Ponder, providing some insight on why he took the colonel challenge.

"Taking note of all the ills associated with smoking and thanks to the relentless encouragement (to kick the habit) from my family and those I work with on the civilian side, and especially in the AF Reserve, I decided I was going to quit last year. Well, my resolve had lasted only a few days when, (on a UTA a year ago) I was at the gazebo near Building 1256 and I saw a guy smoking. I

bummed a cigarette. I stood there smoking the cigarette and not feeling the least bit guilty when Colonel Forshey walked by as he was leaving for the day. He saw me smoking and called me over to his truck and made a wager if I were to quit for a year, he would give me \$100. I thought this was quite a challenge. Besides, always being on the frugal side, I decided to take him up on his offer," said the sergeant finishing recounting his story.

Now, considerably richer (\$100 from Colonel Forshey + the savings from no longer buying cigarettes), Sergeant Ponder looks forward to being a role model for other smokers who are trying to quit.



Sergeant Ponder, right, collects \$100 check from Colonel Forshey.

Start date for new personnel system pushed back three months

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Defense officials have scaled back the initial group of civilian employees to fall under the new National Security Personnel System to 11,000 from a previously scheduled 60,000.

The implementation date was also changed from Feb. 1 to April 30.

Personnel officials have been seeking feedback on proposed rules from employees, managers, human relations specialists and employee unions for several months. That feedback "led us to conclude we need more time to focus on simplifying the performance management design, getting performance objectives right and ensuring the system is simple, clear and understandable," NSPS officials said in a statement on the program's Web site.

The National Security Personnel System is intended to streamline cumbersome personnel rules and make it easier for managers to both reward stellar performance and correct sub-par performance among the Defense Department's 650,000 civil service employees.

The system also includes a means to rate leaders on management functions. (Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

Wing announces top performers for 2005

Congratulations are in order for the officer and enlisted personnel recently named the wing's top performers for the preceding year.

Named the wing's best for 2005 are: Capt. Jameson Durham, 908th AES, Company Grade Officer of the Year; Senior Master Sgt. Leon Alexander, 908th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Senior NCO of the Year; Tech. Sgt. Connie Rollins, 908th Maintenance Operations Flight, NCO of the Year; Senior Airman Tifarah Boyd, 908th Mission Support Flight, Airman of the Year; and Master Sgt. Kenneth Wright, 908th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, First Sergeant of the Year.

They will represent the 908th in the Maxwell/Gunter Annual Awards program. Base-wide winners will be announced made at the Maxwell/Gunter Awards Banquet held at the Maxwell Officers' Club ballroom March 10.

There are many fine company grade officers in this wing and it's a pleasure to represent them, said CGOY award winner Capt. Jameson Durham. The captain, a health services administrator, serves as 908th AES's director of operations and senior Air Reserve Technician.

"Each and every one of my colleagues deserves this honor more than I, for all their countless hours of self sacrifice ensuring everything we do in the 908th AES, goes above and beyond normal duty requirements of patient care and comfort. My tour in the Middle East was a success because of the tremendous enlisted support I received," the health services administrator said.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were other sterling examples of a phenomenal enlisted core, he said. "Our crews, patients, and support personnel all received undivided attention no matter rank, status, or position. Each one of my team members --

Capt. Kevin Baugh, Master Sgts. Beverly Williams and Jodie Byrd and Staff Sgts. James Chaney and Sean Kassebaum-- deserve individual recognition for their accomplishments. Their tireless efforts and willingness to go the extra mile, while always maintaining a phenomenal attitude contributed to the overall mission success."

Like Captain Durham, the wing's top Senior NCO, Senior Master Sgt. Leon Alexander attributed his success to the hard work of his co-workers.

"Being recognized is always an honor but I realize if it was not for the hard work and dedication of the men and women of the Maintenance Group, I would never be in the running for it. These past two years, our people have bent over backwards to support the Global War on Terrorism. Those living outside the commuting area, when not deployed, were only given opportunity to spend time with their families on weekends. Yet, they never wavered from their commitment.

"Despite the extreme temperatures and grueling work schedule, they managed to work as a team, constantly looking out for one another. For instance during the hottest months of the year, with temperatures soaring above 140, they managed to complete 6,871 mishap-free maintenance actions over a 90-day period. In July alone, our team generated 708 combat sorties. Despite who actually receives it, the outstanding maintenance team in the 908th earned this award," said the aircraft maintenance superintendent.

The NCO of the year, Tech. Sgt. Connie Rollins, said it's difficult for her to "speak of myself in terms of being great or better than my peers."

Throughout her military career, the plans and scheduling specialist has simply tried



Airman of the Year: Senior Airman Tifarah Boyd, 908th MSF

to be the very best at whatever task or job she was assigned. As her career progressed she recognized the Air Force presented many opportunities to succeed to those willing to accept challenges.

"I capitalized on the challenges presented me... PME, job diversity, versatility, volunteerism, and performing minimal tasks that others felt compelled not to do. If I may paraphrase former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Staff, General Colin Powell, 'Whatever you do, somebody is watching.' I have been fortunate to have supervisors who took notice of my work and my work ethic and challenged me further and then recognized me for my accomplishments or achievements," the sergeant said.

During each of her deployments in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, she said she had to fall back on the skills and knowledge she'd accumulated over the years to overcome the challenges of functioning in a fast-paced, multi-tasking oriented environment.

She recalled a special moment while deployed. Although he knew she was already swamped with a full

plate of tasks, her supervisor gave her a hot issue he needed handled. "Although he knew I was busy, he came up and gave me the assignment and said, 'I just pushed the "Connie Button."' I asked him what he meant by that and he said, "the Connie Button" is my 911, when I need professionalism and proficiency right away... you are the person I can depend on for exactly that." I thought that was the ultimate compliment."

She said she "strives not only to be the consummate NCO, but a person who is proactive in both the military and community and I am a staunch believer that you only get out what you put in, whether it's your job, hobby, or relationship."

First Sergeant of the Year Master Sgt. Kenneth Wright said the thing he felt most about the award was, "honored." "I have the utmost respect for the other first sergeants in the wing, to be considered in the same league with them, that's what impresses me," Sergeant Wright said.

He's taken care of the troops in the 908th ASTS for nearly 11 years. Recom-

mended by his commander when the unit underwent a mission change and gained greater responsibilities, he accepted the challenge to become the unit's first 'first shirt.'

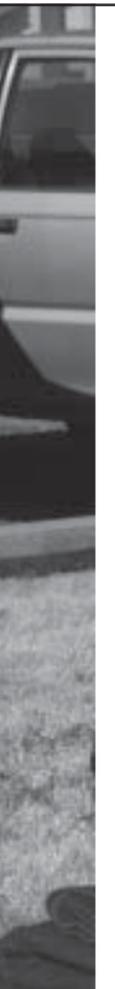
Two things about his job give him great satisfaction, (1) the opportunity to recognize people formally as well as informally and (2) seeing some squadron members he had to deal with in the disciplinary arena in their early years becoming some of his top supervisors.

Sergeant Wright is a firm believer in motivating, encouraging and mentoring or as he calls it, "bringing out the steel in them."

"That's how I look at my job; helping them (his troops) bring it out. What's in you is in you, I can't put it in you. We try to instill Air Force values. We work at accentuating the best in you, the first sergeant said.

The wing's top Airman, Senior Airman Tifarah Boyd is 908th Mission Support Flight's chief of customer service.

She's thrilled to be selected among the wing's best performers. "It is an honor to be chosen for such a great award. To be named the best among so many sharp Airmen, I am truly blessed," she said.



Company Grade



NCO of the Year



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Company Grade Officer of the Year: Capt. Jameson Durham, 908th AES



Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

Senior NCO of the Year: Senior Master Sgt. Leon Alexander, 908th AMXS



Photo by Jeff Melvin

NCO of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Connie Rollins, 908th MOF



Photo by Jeff Melvin

First Sergeant of the Year: Master Sgt. Kenneth Wright, 908th ASTS

Air Force announces results of latest uniform board

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- The 97th Air Force Uniform Board released their newest results for proper wear of the uniform.

The board met in October and discussed everything from eliminating the Air Force Good Conduct Medal to maternity uniforms.

In addition, a Headquarters Air Force badge will be available this summer. The badge provides a distinct identification of military staff members assigned to the Air Staff and the Air Force Secretariat. Details about this badge will be available at a future date.

The following changes are effective immediately:

- Approval to wear the blue nametag with the Air Force informal uniform -- the member's abbreviated rank and name will be on one line. This uniform is worn by recruiters, honor guard, enlisted aides, chaplains, chaplain assistants, world-class athletes, and fitness center and health and wellness center staffs.

- Cummerbund pleats will face up in all cases.

- If due to a temporary medical condition, such as chemotherapy, results in baldness, commanders will authorize the approved American Cancer Society cap, wigs or baldness while in uniform.

- Bracelet size is reduced to one-half inch. Bracelets that support a cause, philosophy, individual or group are not authorized. Traditional POW/

MIA bracelets are still permitted. Gemstone and tennis bracelets are only authorized while wearing the mess dress.

- Rings will be worn at the base of the finger and will not be worn on the thumb. Wedding sets count as one ring.

- Eyeglasses will not be worn around the neck, on top or back of the head or hanging on uniform.

- New epoxy blue nametag is optional on the blue shirt.

- Wear of the firefighter duty badge is authorized while an individual is assigned a 3E7X1 duty Air Force specialty code, including periods of professional military education and staff tours above group level.

- Wear of the security forces duty badge and beret is authorized while an individual is assigned a 3PXXX duty AFSC position and is also their primary AFSC, including PME attendance and staff tours above group level.

- The Air Force Good Conduct Medal will no longer be awarded. Previously earned medals are still permitted.

- Mandatory wear of the physical training uniform is set for Oct. 1 as per the instructions released last November.

- Cell phones, pagers and personal digital assistants must be solid or covered in black, silver, dark blue or gray, and must be conservative. They may be clipped to the left side

of the waistband or purse or carried in left hand. Only one may be worn on the uniform belt. Members will not walk in uniform while using phones, radios or hands-free headsets unless required in performing official duties using a government-issued device.

- Permanent wear of the scuba badge is authorized on the battle dress uniform.

- While not deployed, desert combat uniforms may not be worn unless en route to the basic combat convoy course. "Deployed" for this purpose includes members traveling en route to/from rest and recuperative leave from the Central Command area of responsibility, as outlined in policy announced in mid-2005.

This session of the Air Force Uniform Board included a special panel that was specifically chartered to make recommendations regarding updates/revisions to uniform standards affecting women Airmen. After careful review, the board approved several changes that affect women specifically:

- "Scrunchies" are prohibited.

- Hairpins and bands must match hair color.

- Hair color, frosting and highlights will not be faddish and will match natural hair colors, i.e. blonde, brunette, natural red, black or gray.

- No shaved head or flat top hairstyles for women.

- Synthetic hair can be worn, as long as it meets safety and mission requirements.

- Braids, micro-braids and cornrows are authorized.

- Nail polish will not contrast with complexion or detract from the uniform. Nor is polish of extreme color, such as purple, gold, black, blue or any fluorescent color, authorized. Nail polish will also be limited to one color.

- French manicures are allowed, but fingernail length in all instances will not exceed one-quarter inch beyond the fingertip.

- In addition to clutch-style purses, purses with no more

than two straps are authorized with mess dress.

- Earrings will be small spherical, conservative diamond, gold, white pearl or silver with any uniform combination and must be worn as a set. For those with multiple ear piercing, only one set of earrings will be worn in the lower earlobe and will also conform to these earring wear standards when performing duty in civilian clothes.

- Male flight cap is optional.

The updates will be added to Air Force Instruction 36-2903 when the new version is released in March.

Reservists can change duty history via web

By Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims
Air Reserve Personnel Center
Public Affairs

DENVER (AFPN) -- Beginning mid-March, Reserve Airmen will be able to access and change their duty history through the virtual Personnel Center Guard and Reserve, or vPC-GR, a 24/7 customer service Web portal operated by the Air Reserve Personnel Center here.

ARPC continues to centralize processes once located at unit level military personnel flights, or MPFs. The most recent process to be centralized is Reservist duty history. Before now, Reservists had to visit their local MPF to change or request a copy of their duty history. Now, Reservists can log on to the vPC-GR at arpc.afrc.af.mil/support/default.asp. Airmen can establish an account by answering a few questions.

Once logged in, members can click on "Duty History," where they can add, edit or delete data. Supporting documents can be attached while logged in to the Web portal or by a separate e-mail. The customer will be e-mailed a tracking number once the submission is received. They will receive an e-mail letting them know when the actions are completed.

"The ultimate goal is to improve how we deliver services to our Reservists," said Col. Ann Shippy, ARPC commander. "It is time that we stop making people drive across base to go to the mili-

tary personnel flight to do their updates."

The service delivery transformation team at ARPC continuously studies which processes handled by local MPFs can be centralized and automated at ARPC.

Since the launch of the vPC-GR in mid-2005, several processes have been automated or centralized, including the 20-year letter, mortgage letter, letters to officer promotion boards, pre- or post-promotion board counseling requests, and more.

Overall, the team is studying more than 100 processes for automation and centralization.

The goal is to bring as many "front-line" personnel services from throughout ARPC and the Reserve into the contact center or on the Web.

"Sure, change is hard, but inevitable," said Dave Aldrich, director of personnel service delivery here. "Businesses across the globe use Web-enabled tools to deliver goods and services to their customers; our Air Force ought to be no different. Let's keep Airmen on the flightline, in training or ensuring their readiness -- not sitting on a customer service bench."

In the future, centralized services should account for nearly every aspect of every Reservists' personnel actions, from initial enlistment to far beyond retirement. (Courtesy of Air Reserve Personnel Center News Service)



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Wing award winners feted in style

908th AW Commander Col. Michael Underkofler and 4th quarter wing-wide award winners pose for a souvenir photo, before settling in for a chauffeured ride to lunch -- just one of the prizes and mementos presented to quarterly winners of the wing recognition program. Pictured (from left) are: Colonel Underkofler, Tech. Sgt. Vickey Mathews, Senior Airman Caterina Durham, 1st Lt. Tonia Stephens (previous award winner), Senior Master Sgt. Cynthia Bennett and Capt. Jameson Durham.

Take Note



Photos by Jeff Melvin



B-ballers miss shot at 2nd title

Sammie Gipson gets ready to score against the 42nd Security Force Squadron during the 2006 Maxwell AFB intramural basketball title game. Despite Gipson's 19 pts the 908th squad failed to repeat as base champions, falling 81-68 to the 42nd SFS in the title game. Below, Corey Baker is pressured by 42nd SFS defenders.

Free Pizza and Soda

All 908th E-5s & E-6s
 1715, Saturday, March 4, 2006
 Maxwell Enlisted Club
 Sponsored by the 908 Top Three
 no need to change, come as you are

Family Day to be held at zoo

The Montgomery Zoo will be the site of this year's annual Family Day, Saturday May 6. The Wright Flyers civic organization is subsidizing the event which will be open to area Guard and Reserve members. Expect more details in next month's Southern Flyer.

On a related note, the Montgomery Biscuits baseball team is hosting a Guard/Reserve Military Appreciation Day that evening when the Biscuits play the Mississippi Braves at 7:05 p.m. at Riverwalk Stadium near downtown Montgomery. Gates will open at 5:50 p.m. Immediately following the game there will be a fireworks spectacular sponsored by Max FCU.

Reserved tickets for 500 Guard/Reserve members are available at \$8 person; children 2 and under will get in free. The order deadline for getting tickets is April 2. Guardsmen and Reservist should work through their first sergeants to order tickets.

Another reminder. Strict base entry procedures are in affect; make sure your vehicle decals are current and drivers have necessary documents if vehicles passes are necessary.

Looking for family fun April

The Maxwell AFB Air Show will be held Saturday, April 8. Aerial acts include the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team. Gates open at 8 a.m. Admission is free.

Did you know?

The two most common organisms that can be spread between human beings via contact with blood and body fluids are the hepatitis B virus (HBV) and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver, and the HIV virus, or AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) attacks the body's immune system.

Although primarily transmitted through sexual contact and contaminated needles, these viruses can enter the body through open cuts, skin abrasions, mucous membranes of the mouth, eyes, and nose. The pathogens are present in saliva, semen, vaginal secretions, and other body fluids containing blood.

Many people carry viruses for years before symptoms develop. Healthcare workers, firemen, and security forces personnel reduce their risk to blood-borne pathogen exposure by using personal protective equipment.

All military members are reminded of the potential for bloodborne pathogen exposure during physical fitness and training injuries. Disposable gloves should accompany all first aid kits. It is imperative that disposable gloves be worn when handling blood and body fluids of another individual and hands are washed thoroughly using recommended handwashing techniques after removing the gloves.

You can protect yourself from bloodborne pathogen exposure by knowing the facts and taking proper precautions. Please contact Maj. Donna Roberts or Capt. Allan Hinton, 908th ASTS infection control officers at (334) 953-5404 for further information.



Honor your boss, nominate him, her for "Patriot Award"

Award your employer! Recognize your boss for his or her support of National Guard and Reserve members. Nominate him or her for a "Patriot Award." Your employer will receive a Department of Defense Certificate of Appreciation and a Patriot lapel pin. All members of the National Guard and Reserve are eligible to nominate their employers. Certificates are printed with your employer's name, so please enter only one name per nomination. The process is easy, simply go to the Employer Support of the Guard web site and enter the requested information in the on-line form found at <http://www.esgr.org/members2/onlineForms.asp?c=formMBIAP.asp>.

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To the Family of: